

## **Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Rules & Licenses for Certain Products Sold at Farmers Markets**

Below is an overview of the types of licenses required for the sale of certain types of foods at farmers markets in Maryland. With so many more value-added products showing up at markets now, it's imperative to get the necessary paperwork and required licenses before opening day.

### **Processed Foods that can be sold without a License:**

\*Unflavored honey, naturally acid fruit jams/jellies and non-potentially hazardous baked goods

**NOTE:** Eggs must be sold in accordance with Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations.

### **Products that require an On-Farm Home Processing License**

You need this if you manufacture and process non-potentially hazardous foods, such as:

\*Baked cakes, muffins, or cookies with a water activity of 85 or less

\*Fruit pies with a pH of 4.6 or less

\*Canned acid foods with a pH of 4.6 or less

\*Herbs in vinegar with a pH of 4.6 or less

\*Flavored Honey

\*Herb Mixtures

\*Dried fruits and vegetables

\*Storage of USDA-processed meat and poultry

### ***Products that require On-Farm Home Processing License and Training:***

In addition to obtaining an On-Farm Home Processing License, some products require attendance at a training class to receive a license. These include:

\*Acidified canned goods, potentially hazardous baked goods, fermented products, fruit butters (banana, pear, pumpkin), cut fruits and vegetables, and cured meats.

### **Steps to obtain this license include:**

\* Contact the MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Center for Retail Food, Plan, and Process Reviews (from now on known as the MD Health Department) for requirements

\*Submit Plan Review information to the MD Health Department for evaluation

\*On-site plan review inspection of home kitchen

\*Application and fee for license - \$30.00

### **Producer Mobile Farmer's Market Unit License**

You need this license if you transport and sell potentially hazardous (requires refrigeration) on-farm home processing plant products, e.g. USDA-processed meats and poultry brought back to the farm for storage or farm products inspected, licensed, or certified by the MD Department of Agriculture, e.g. rabbits and poultry.

Steps to obtain this license include:

- \* Contact the MD Health Department for requirements.
- \* License fee of \$100
- \* License for period of 1 year and valid in all jurisdictions of the State
- \* Submit plans to MD Health Department
- \* County Health departments enforce and levy fines.

### **Farmer's Market Sampling License**

A Farmer's Market Sampling License has recently been put into place; however, the MD Health Department is leaving it up to the County Health Departments to establish it and so far Carroll County has not done this. Meanwhile, we believe that in order to offer samples you need the County's Temporary Food Service License.

Here are the steps for obtaining a sampling license once the county has this in place.

- A. Obtain a Farmers Market Sampling License from your County Health Department. A list of county health department offices and their contact information is available on [www.mredc.umd.edu](http://www.mredc.umd.edu). Go to the Resource Map and click on your county.
- B. This license is good for all Maryland Farmers markets for the entire 2011 season.
- C. Vendors may be inspected periodically by the Health Department.
- D. Vendors offering product sample must adhere to good sanitation practices for hand washing, dishwashing, waster disposal, food source, overhead protection, location, cold holding, cooking, and ice sources.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene - Center for Retail Food, Plan, and Process Reviews**

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**Maryland Department of Agriculture - Food Quality Assurance Program**

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**For more information about specific products, visit the Food Processing section listed on the Maryland Rural Enterprise Development website at [www.mredc.umd.edu](http://www.mredc.umd.edu).**